CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A connector, comprising:

a housing ~~(20)~~ connectable with a mating housing ~~(10)~~ mounted on a panel ~~(P)~~, the housing ~~(20)~~ including a terminal-accommodating portion ~~(21)~~ for accommodating terminal fittings ~~(29)~~ and a jaw ~~(22)~~ bulging out from an outer peripheral surface of the terminal-accommodating portion ~~(21)~~, the jaw ~~(22)~~ having a front surface for facing the panel ~~(P)~~ substantially in parallel, a rear surface opposite the front surface and an outer peripheral edge extending between the front and rear surfaces;

a grommet ~~(23)~~ attached to the jaw ~~(22)~~ and overlying ~~a~~ the outer peripheral edge of the jaw and portions of the front and rear surfaces of the jaw adjacent the outer peripheral edge, the portions of the grommet overlying the front surface of the jaw ~~(22)~~ for closely contacting the panel ~~(P)~~; and

at least one protrusion ~~(40; 45)~~ on the front surface of the jaw ~~(22)~~ inwardly from the portion of the grommet overlying the front surface of the jaw and at least partly surrounding the terminal-accommodating portion ~~(21)~~ such that portions of the jaw having the protrusion are thicker than portions of the jaw to which the grommet is attached, a projecting distance of the protrusion being less than a thickness of portions of the grommet overlying the front surface of the jaw so that the protrusion does not affect the close contacting of the grommet with the panel.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim ~~2~~1, wherein the jaw ~~(22)~~ has different length and width dimensions, the protrusion ~~(40)~~ including ~~an annular~~ a peripheral portion ~~(41)~~ substantially surrounding the terminal-accommodating portion ~~(21)~~,

[redacted]

and crossing portions ~~(42)~~ extending in from longer sides of the ~~annular~~ peripheral portion ~~(41)~~.

4. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein a projecting distance of the protrusion ~~(40)~~ is sufficiently short to avoid interference with a receptacle ~~(12)~~ of the mating housing ~~(10)~~ when the housing ~~(20)~~ is connected with the mating housing ~~(10)~~.

5. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein ~~the jaw (22) has a rear surface for facing away from the panel (P),~~ the at least one protrusion ~~(40, 45)~~ is a front protrusion, the connector further comprising at least one rear protrusions formed on ~~both~~ the ~~front and~~ rear surfaces of the jaw ~~(22)~~.

6. (currently amended) The connector of claim 5, wherein the two protrusions ~~(40, 45)~~ are provided substantially symmetrically on the jaw ~~(22)~~.

7. (currently amended) The connector of claim ~~1~~5, wherein the ~~at least one~~ rear protrusion ~~(45)~~ comprises at least one substantially U-shaped outer portion ~~(46)~~ arranged substantially parallel to the outer peripheral wall of the terminal-accommodating portion ~~(21)~~.

8. (currently amended) ~~The~~A connector ~~of claim 7, further~~ comprising:

a housing connectable with a mating housing mounted on a panel, the housing including a terminal-accommodating portion for accommodating terminal fittings and a jaw bulging out from an outer peripheral surface of the terminal-accommodating portion, the jaw having a front surface for facing the panel substantially in parallel;

a grommet attached to the jaw and overlying a portion of the front surface of the jaw for closely contacting the panel; and

[redacted]

at least one protrusion on the jaw and at least partly surrounding the terminal-accommodating portion, the at least one protrusion comprising at least one substantially U-shaped outer portion arranged substantially parallel to the outer peripheral surface of the terminal accommodating portion, an inner wall ~~(60)~~ extending continuously rearwardly from the terminal-accommodating portion ~~(21)~~, and couplings ~~(47)~~ extending between the outer portion ~~(46)~~ and the inner wall ~~(60)~~ at specified intervals.

9. (currently amended) A connector assembly comprising the connector of claim 1 and a mating connector having a mating housing ~~(10)~~ for mounting on a panel ~~(P)~~.

10. (currently amended) The connector assembly of claim 9, wherein a lock arm ~~(30)~~ is provided on one of the housings ~~(20, 10)~~ to form an inertial locking means by temporarily contacting an engaging portion ~~(50)~~ thereby temporarily restricting connection of the housings ~~(10, 20)~~, wherein the contact state is canceled by pushing at least one of the housing ~~(10)~~ and the mating connector housing ~~(10)~~ with a force exceeding a connection resistance.